

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 592

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor the organizers and participants of the 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh reenactment.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to honor those persons who are committed to preserving the vast and storied military history of our Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, the organizers and participants of the 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh reenactment comprise one such group of esteemed citizens, who have dedicated themselves to ensuring the success of this momentous event; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 1862, a Confederate army of 40,000 men under the command of General Albert S. Johnston surprised and attacked a Union army of 45,000 men under General Ulysses S. Grant at the Battle of Shiloh; and

WHEREAS, during fierce battles, which raged from dawn to dusk and involved some of the most desperate fighting of the Civil War, Union troops were steadily driven back from their positions prior to the arrival of reinforcements, which ultimately was the difference in the battle; and

WHEREAS, the Union victory forced the evacuation of Confederate troops from much of Tennessee and split Confederate forces along the lines formed by the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, Shiloh National Military Park was established at the site in 1894 to preserve the scene of this, the first major battle in the Western theater of the Civil War, which resulted in nearly 24,000 wounded and killed, including General Johnston; and

WHEREAS, the 140th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Shiloh will be held in Michie, Tennessee on April 5-7, 2002, in what will certainly be one of the major events this year to honor the memory of those that fought and died during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, approximately 10,000 reenactors are expected to participate in the reenactment, with 30,000 spectators in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Glenn F. McConnell, South Carolina State Senator and chairman of the Hunley Commission, will give a presentation on the history, recovery and excavation of the Hunley, the first Confederate submarine to sink an enemy ship during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, a special exhibit with a "full size model" of the Hunley submarine will be at the reenactment, along with a second model showing the interior of the submarine and a video detailing the ship's history; and

WHEREAS, a legendary gold coin that saved the life of a Confederate soldier at the Battle of Shiloh will also be featured at the reenactment; the \$20 coin made its way from Mobile to Shiloh, back to Mobile, then to the bottom of the Charleston Harbor where it lay for 137 years after the Hunley's unexplained sinking; and

WHEREAS, given to Hunley Commander Lt. George Dixon as a "good luck charm" by his sweetheart, Queenie Bennett of Mobile, a bullet struck the coin while worn by Dixon at the Battle of Shiloh, bending it into the shape of a bell; upon his return to Mobile from the battle, Lt. Dixon had the coin engraved, "Shiloh, April 6, 1862. My Life Preserver. G.E.D."; and

WHEREAS, the Shiloh battle reenactments will feature the Battles of the Sunken Road and the Hornets Nest, where the Confederate Army massed 62 cannons and fired on the Federal Army 140 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the reenactment will also have significant educational value to thousands of school children who will tour the Hunley exhibit, thus gaining an invaluable lesson on American history; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the members of this legislative body should honor the memory of those soldiers who fought with great bravery and ability in this fierce battle, while offering heartfelt thanks to those persons who proudly serve as stewards of Tennessee history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby salute the organizers and participants of the 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh reenactment for their faithful dedication to preserving the rich history of our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend a special thanks to Senator McConnell for his unflagging support of this momentous event, and for his prodigious service to the Hunley Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.